

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A check processing system, comprising:
an input receptacle for receiving checks, each check having a wide and a narrow dimension and including field data imprinted on the check;
at least one output receptacle;
a check imager; and
a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle for receiving the checks from the input receptacle and transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, past the check imager to the at least one output receptacle;
wherein the check imager captures an image of each passing check, and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted field data.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises MICR data.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises numeric check amount data.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises courtesy field data.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a memory for storing the check images.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including means for electronically tagging recognized field data to the check images.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the imprinted field data comprises bank endorsement data.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including an interface for outputting the check images over a communications channel.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.

12. (Original) A check processing method, comprising:
receiving checks in an input receptacle, each check having a wide and a narrow dimension and including field data imprinted on the check;
transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, from the input receptacle to at least one output receptacle;
imaging the transported checks; and
processing check images to recognize the imprinted field data.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises MICR data.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises numeric check amount data.
15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises courtesy field data.
16. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including storing the check images.
17. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including electronically tagging recognized field data to the check images.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the imprinted field data comprises bank endorsement data.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including outputting the check images over a communications channel.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

22. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.

23. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein transporting comprises transporting the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.

24. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the transport mechanism transports the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.

25. (New) A document processing system, comprising:

- an input receptacle for receiving checks, each check having a wide and a narrow dimension;
- at least one output receptacle;
- a check imager; and
- a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle for receiving the checks from the input receptacle and transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, past the check imager to the at least one output receptacle;

wherein the check imager captures an image of each passing check.

26. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein each check includes MICR data imprinted thereon and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted MICR data.

27. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein each check includes numeric check amount data imprinted thereon and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted numeric check amount data.

28. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein each check includes courtesy field data imprinted thereon and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted courtesy field data.

29. (New) The system of claim 25 further including a memory for storing the check images.

30. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein each check includes field data imprinted thereon, further including means for electronically tagging recognized field data to the check images.

31. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein each check includes bank endorsement data imprinted thereon and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted bank endorsement data.

32. (New) The system of claim 25 further including an interface for outputting the check images over a communications channel.

33. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

34. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

35. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.

36. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the receptacle receives currency bills and wherein transport mechanism transports the currency bills and further including a currency denominating device that denominates the transported currency bills.

37. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the receptacle receives currency bills and wherein transport mechanism transports the currency bills and further wherein the check imager images the currency bills.

38. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the transport mechanism transports the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.

39. (New) A document processing method, comprising:
receiving checks in an input receptacle, each check having a wide and a narrow dimension;
transporting the checks, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, from the input receptacle to at least one output receptacle; and
imaging the transported checks.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein each check includes MICR data imprinted thereon and further including processing the captured image to recognize the imprinted MICR data.

41. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein each check includes numeric check amount data imprinted thereon and further including processing the captured image to recognize the imprinted numeric check amount data.

42. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein each check includes courtesy field data imprinted thereon and further including processing the captured image to recognize the imprinted courtesy field data.

43. (New) The method of claim 39 further including storing the check images.

44. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein each check includes courtesy field data imprinted thereon and further including recognizing the imprinted field data from the image and electronically tagging recognized field data to the check images.

45. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein each check includes bank endorsement data imprinted thereon and further including processing the captured image to recognize the imprinted bank endorsement data.

46. (New) The method of claim 39 further including outputting the check images over a communications channel.

47. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

48. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

49. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.

50. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving includes receiving currency bills and wherein transporting includes transporting the currency bills and further including denominating the transported currency bills.

51. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving includes receiving currency bills and wherein transporting includes transporting the currency bills and further wherein imaging includes imaging the currency bills.

52. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein transporting comprises transporting the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.

53. (New) A document processing system, comprising:
an input receptacle for receiving currency bills, each currency bill having a wide and a narrow dimension;
at least one output receptacle;
a bill imager; and
a transport mechanism coupled to the input receptacle for receiving the currency bills from the input receptacle and transporting the currency bills, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, past the bill imager to the at least one output receptacle;
wherein the bill imager captures an image of each passing currency bill.

54. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein each currency bill includes serial number data imprinted thereon and wherein the check imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted serial number data.

55. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein each currency bill includes field data imprinted thereon and wherein the bill imager processes the captured image to recognize the imprinted field data.

56. (New) The system of claim 53 further including a memory for storing the bill images.

57. (New) The system of claim 53 further including an interface for outputting the bill images over a communications channel.

58. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.

59. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.

60. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.

61. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the receptacle receives checks and wherein transport mechanism transports the checks and further wherein the bill imager images the checks.

62. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the transport mechanism transports the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.

63. (New) A document processing method, comprising:
receiving currency bills in an input receptacle, each currency bill having a wide and a narrow dimension;
transporting the currency bills, with their narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport, from the input receptacle to at least one output receptacle; and
imaging the transported currency bills.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein each currency bill includes serial number data imprinted thereon and further including processing the captured image to recognize the imprinted serial number data.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 further including storing the currency bill images.
66. (New) The method of claim 63 further including outputting the currency bill images over a communications channel.
67. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a single bin.
68. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one output receptacle is two bins.
69. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of bins.
70. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein receiving includes receiving checks and wherein transporting includes transporting the checks and further wherein imaging includes imaging the checks.
71. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein transporting comprises transporting the checks at a rate of at least 800 checks per minute.